



# The Alabama Baptist

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Informing. Inspiring. Connecting.

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To watch the videos from this week's issue, visit our YouTube channel "TAB Media."



AP photo/Rebecca Blackwell

Migrants from various countries wait in the men's line to receive food donated by volunteers who provide daily meals at the Puerta Mexico international bridge in Matamoros, Tamaulipas state, Mexico, on June 27.

## Border work

### Baptists can play larger role as migrants wait in Mexico

As the director of disaster relief for the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention and a former resident of the border region himself, Scottie Stice and his colleagues have spent years giving aid to migrants along the U.S.-Mexico border. But these days, "we have had an increase in numbers," Stice said.

Waves of Baptist volunteers from across the U.S. have flooded his state in recent weeks to offer aid to the influx

of largely Central American migrants crossing the U.S.-Mexico border. The deluge of Southern Baptists and other evangelical relief groups has surprised some.

The Catholic Church has historically dominated the aid operation in Texas and retains robust partnerships on both sides of the border.

Evangelicals have garnered less attention — perhaps because, according to the Pew Research Center, they may be more likely than any other faith group to believe that the U.S. does not have a responsibility to welcome migrants.

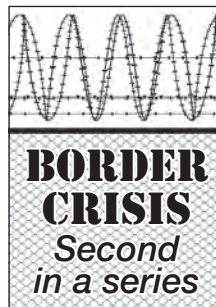
But just as the Catholic

Church retains robust partnerships on both sides of the border, so do the Baptists.

Mike Carlisle, director of missions for the San Diego Southern Baptist Association, said his group has a missionary who teams up with local churches from the National Baptist Convention of Mexico, in Tijuana, to offer food and showers for migrants currently trapped in bureaucratic limbo.

"For weeks our missionary single-handedly provided breakfast for those awaiting immigration processing," Carlisle said. "He was asked by some of the officials there to expand his work."

(See 'Helping,' page 11)



## Christians should address social issues, leaders say

By Martha Simmons  
Correspondent, The Alabama Baptist

Congregants in many Baptist churches in Alabama will observe "Social Issues Sunday" on Aug. 4, taking time to reflect on the moral, ethical and societal problems of the day.

But when it seems that the world is tumbling headlong into chaos, how does one prioritize which issues to tackle first? *The Alabama Baptist* interviewed two Southern Baptist leaders to get their perspectives.

"Pro-life is probably the most important of all the issues facing our state and nation," said Joe Godfrey, head of the Alabama Citizens Action Program (ALCAP). Godfrey hailed the state's passage of the most restrictive abortion bill in America but was less enthusiastic about other legislative efforts afoot in Montgomery.

"Legislators never consider the costs and consequences of their decisions concerning these moral issues," Godfrey said. "They are promised huge revenue streams, but gambling, marijuana and alcohol never produce the revenue they promise."

"On top of that the added costs of medical care, law enforcement and court costs are never a part of their calculations."

Godfrey criticized new laws allowing wine ship- (See 'Social,' page 8)

# How does your church observe special emphasis days, weeks?

Special emphasis Sundays and promotional weeks on the denominational calendar are a longstanding tradition for Baptists.

With so many special emphases holding days designated specifically for them, we aren't sure there are many (if any) Sundays left to claim.

A large number of the special Sundays are part of the official Southern Baptist Convention calendar while others are specific to individual state conventions.

And then there are the days celebrated within particular associations and those meant only for the church family in which they were established.

## Lots of options

With so many days each year earmarked for the various special emphases, how do church leaders decide which ones to observe?

In fact in this one issue of the paper we've noted three upcoming dates — July 28 (Southern Baptist Media Day), Aug. 4 (Social Issues Sunday) and Aug. 18 (Read *The Alabama Baptist* Day).

This past Sunday (July 21) was Children's Ministry Day and a few weeks prior to that was Citizenship and Religious Liberty Sunday.

## Missions focus

The weeklong emphases tend to be related to missions — international missions in December, North American missions in March and for Alabama the Myers-Mallory State Missions Offering in September.

The list of options truly is non-ending and they all are important topics to be acknowledged.

Still we are curious about which ones are most promoted and what types of activities are paired with those promotions?

Tell us about how your church decides which special emphasis days or weeks will be observed each year and what types of activities are used for the observation.

Does someone in church leadership review the church, association, state and national calendars annually to select specific emphases to schedule or has the routine been established for a long time and thus is already pretty much set?

Do special Sundays include something noted in the church bulletin and maybe a video or slideshow presentation of some type?

Do guest speakers share during part of the services?

Will the children's activities be customized to match whatever the special emphasis is?

## Share your story

There's really no right or wrong way to go about celebrating and observing these special days and promotional weeks, but it would be interesting to know what is the most popular among the options.

And there are likely some unique or surprise elements that made a particular special emphasis day one that will always be remembered by your church family.

Share your story with us at [news@thealabamabaptist.org](mailto:news@thealabamabaptist.org). (TAB)



"If ye continue in My word, then ... ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." John 8:31-32

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as judged by Associated Church Press, Baptist Communicators Association, Evangelical Press Association or Religion Communicators Council

Do you have a **Jesus story** that you would like to share with us?

Email us at [news@thealabamabaptist.org](mailto:news@thealabamabaptist.org).



The crossword puzzle can be found on page 17.

## NorthPark Baptist D-Life group serves TAB lunch



Photo by Sue Godsey

When Peggi Pinola's D-Life group from NorthPark Baptist Church, Trussville, offered to prepare a homecooked meal for the staff of *The Alabama Baptist*, the timing worked out perfectly to serve as the kick-off activity for a monthlong celebration for the annual Read *TAB* Day. The emphasis occurs every third Sunday in August — this year it is set for Aug. 18. Thank you to Peggi and the eight members of the group, especially Gail Deavers, Sherri Arnold and Robyn Chapman, for the hospitality and kindness.

# MY RASHIONALE

**By Jennifer Davis Rash**  
President and Editor-in-Chief

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[@RashionalThts](https://www.instagram.com/RashionalThts)



## Is it really fair to claim ‘it isn’t fair’ in the life of a believer?

**W**ith the U.S. national team capturing a record fourth Women’s World Cup title in a 2–0 win over the Netherlands on July 7 team members quickly used the platform to advocate for issues of concern to them.

At the same time an earlier conversation resurfaced about whether soccer standout Jaelene Hinkle was left off the team because of her Christian faith.

The 26-year-old Hinkle plays with the National Women’s Soccer League as a defender for the North Carolina Courage and according to media reports was described as “the best left back in the league” in 2018. So it came as a shock to many when this year’s World Cup team roster didn’t include her.

Coach Jill Ellis said the decision was based strictly on the game but many speculate it was because of Hinkle’s outspoken stance against homosexuality.

### What she did

In 2015, Hinkle publicly objected to the U.S. Supreme Court’s ruling that legalized same-sex “marriage.”

And in 2017 she declined to play in two matches for the U.S. women’s national team stating “personal reasons” but later shared it was because she didn’t want to wear rainbow-themed team jerseys recognizing Gay Pride Month.

In an interview with the Christian Broadcasting Network’s “The 700 Club” Hinkle said, “I just felt so convicted in my spir-

it that it wasn’t my job to wear this jersey. I gave myself three days to just seek and pray and determine what [God] was asking me to do in this situation.”

Hinkle also said she is at peace with how things have transpired because she believes she was obedient. She admitted it wasn’t necessarily easy but she accepts the path.

We may never know for sure whether Hinkle was left off the team for her public stand, but we can explore the full extent of the story to determine what we might do in a similar situation.

After all it was a supporter of Hinkle who resurfaced the conversation — not Hinkle and not the U.S. soccer team.

And with that public poke at the team through a simple social media comment made by someone not connected to the team came the more aggressive public criticism of Hinkle.

From there the discussion has the potential to expand. And if it falls in line with numerous other discussions we’ve watched play out on social media recently then people may begin to lob opinions back and forth.

Before long people are reacting emotionally and showing the worst side of themselves — all while the world watches.

Reports indicate other Christians are on the team who have not drawn the same harsh criticism. Is that because they don’t share their faith openly and/or aren’t as dedicated to it or because they have not landed in a public social media debate?

Is it possible for people of

faith with strong convictions to serve on teams and work together with people who have different values?

What is the key to standing on truth with grace and love? How should we function in society — be in the world but not of the world — without compromising our values while also not harshly attacking those who disagree?

### What she said

One of Hinkle’s Instagram posts reads, “My heart is that as Christians we don’t begin to throw a tantrum over what has been brought into law today, but we become that much more loving. That through our love, the lost, rejected, and abandoned find Christ.”

Yet she is being described by at least one former team member as mean-spirited.

We don’t know what Hinkle may have said to that former teammate. Maybe she calmly and nicely attempted to share her convictions and that in itself was enough to anger the player. Maybe she really was mean-spirited in her tone.

But maybe she never had those conversations at all on a one-on-one level and all the conclusions of her ability to love and respect others have been drawn from a few social media posts — first where she stood in opposition to the legalization of same-sex “marriage” and second because someone unrelated to any of the players chimed in with a random comment.

Is it possible this random bystander used Hinkle’s story

as an opportunity to publicly indicate “it’s not fair” and thus stir up controversy rather than choosing to publicly thank Hinkle for standing by her convictions and being willing to accept what sacrifices came with the decision?

What if we spent less time being upset — and sometimes ugly in our responses — about the challenges coming our way?

What if we stood in Christ’s strength and — like Hinkle — accept the fact that many will not understand and push back?

What if in the contentious moments we focused on shining the Light within us in a spirit of “faith, hope and love” as noted in 1 Corinthians 13:13?

When we are tempted to be fearful or anxious about what is happening around us, a good Scripture to remember is 2 Timothy 1:7, “For God has not given us a spirit of fear but of power and of love and of a sound mind.”

A wise Bible study teacher recently explained in a class I attended how 2 Timothy is Paul’s letter of encouragement to the younger Timothy.

Timothy was discouraged in his ministry work and Paul wrote the letter to remind him to put his confidence in Christ rather than himself.

As believers in and followers of Christ we can maintain that same confidence no matter what the circumstance. We can stand strong amid adversity if we keep looking upward and outward and let go of self-imposed expectations of what is and isn’t fair for our lives. 🌈

# Your Voice



Share your comments, letters to the editor, blog excerpts, social media posts

## Prison ministries show value of life, future

By **Scott Dawson**  
Scott Dawson Evangelistic Association

In Matthew 25:40, Jesus says these profound words: “Truly I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers you did it for me.”

Here Christ calls us to think and act bigger than ourselves, bigger than just those around us and to be stewards of the least of these in our communities.

Protecting life is a universal moral imperative. At every stage of human development, we, as good Christians and good people should value life and who God has put on this earth.

Nowhere is that more apparent than in our fight to save the unborn

and stand up for the defenseless.

However, in recent years Christians across America and specifically Alabama have also turned their focus to another group of people who are often left defenseless and forgotten about — prisoners.

Through a network of different organizations and ministries, men and women of faith are bringing light to those incarcerated and giving them another chance.

So often we hear that those in the pro-life community value life only when it’s in the womb and when it is politically expedient to do so. In most communities around our state, the local church is leading the effort to reach those incarcerated.

Through incredible organizations like Prison Fellowship, God Behind Bars and Church of the Highlands Correctional Ministry, those in prison are getting to experience life and community again. They are being connected to friends and family who are going to be there for them as they reenter society.

Heart change is where it all begins. Restoring or forming a relationship with Christ is the catalyst for life change.

Organizations like Prison Fellowship take a hands-on personal approach. They work to restore familial and community relationships. They put on incredible family and community events like Angel Tree and Second-Chance Month. Heart change is what we know God wants but if you have no support system around you it’s easy to slip back to old habits. When you have a community around you to encourage and walk with you, that makes all the difference.

God Behind Bars partners with the local church to foster community within prisons across the country. Church of the Highlands prison ministry works similarly to this.

Christians are acting as the hands and feet of Jesus. We may not get everything right and no doubt make our fair share of mistakes, but these Christians are looking past a person’s actions and towards his or her heart and the purpose God has placed on that person’s life.

I think we can all cheer for that.

Leaders don’t create more followers. They create more leaders.

**Barry Bledsoe**  
President  
The Baptist Foundation  
of Alabama

As Christians in a fallen world, we are tempted to yell at the darkness. But our job is to shine the light.

**Rob Paul**  
Rob Paul Ministries and  
Pastor, Huffman Baptist  
Church, Birmingham

(We) often don’t appreciate it when things go well or as expected, but we are quick to complain when something goes wrong. We rarely post on Facebook or Twitter when our plane arrives on time or our waitress serves our meal quickly. On the other hand, we are quick to criticize on social media (or in the church parking lot) if the slightest thing goes wrong during our day.”

**Otis Corbitt**  
Associational missions  
director, Covington  
Baptist Association

## Change is Necessary

Change is difficult and even painful for some people. It is, however, both necessary and good. If nothing ever changed, babies would never grow up but neither would they get married and (give you) grandchildren!

What must never change is the message of the gospel of Jesus Christ, His crucifixion and His resurrection; but the methods we use to present that message change constantly.

Jesus didn’t talk to shepherds about fishing. He didn’t teach fishermen about plowing fields. He met people where they were

and called them to follow Him.

Why am I talking about changing? We need to stop thinking that people are going to “clean up their acts,” find Jesus and then come to church and act like they are supposed to.

We need to find people where they are and lead them to Jesus. He will clean them up. That means that they will still be rough around the edges when they get to church but honestly so were we.

**Jack Anderson**  
Associational missions  
director, Alabama-Crenshaw  
Baptist Association

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“ Jesus sees ... all of the crowds of migrants, harassed and helpless and fleeing for refuge.”

ALAN CROSS

*Southern Baptist pastor and advocate for refugees and immigrants*

The writer of Ecclesiastes says there is nothing new under the sun. For millennia, children have been victims of horrific crime. Today, children continue to be treated as objects of desire and power rather than what they are — invaluable creations of the Lord God. “What you did to the least of these, you did to me ...” It’s an admonition spoken to God’s people but it is true for all. When one is harmed, all suffer.

**Ed Stetzer**  
**ChristianityToday.com**

It’s a sad commentary on our times that more than 70 years after the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, gross violations continue throughout the world, sometimes even in the name of human rights.

The time is right for an informed review of the role of human rights in American foreign policy.

**Mike Pompeo**  
**U.S. Secretary of State**

We have been asked by churches in the area [of the U.S.-Mexican border] to help and that is what we are doing. Many of these migrants they’ve been traveling for as much as six months. They’re tired. They’re dirty. They’re frustrated and they’re coming into our country.

**Franklin Graham**  
**President and CEO**  
**Samaritan’s Purse**

We have seen a lot of lives changed and families that never heard the gospel being told how God

redeems and saves the lost. Watching our ladies wrestle with applying the truth and coming alongside them as they are actively choosing life and change has been such an amazing experience to see. What a privilege to serve in this ministry. But another miracle is how God uses so many people to meet the needs of this ministry.

**Debra Garner**  
**Executive director**  
**The Summit of Fort Payne**

Perfectionism is overrated but most importantly, it’s suffocating. If you let it, perfectionism will gradually erode your inner peace and rob you of your joy.

**Rachel Moreland**  
**Relevantmagazine.com**



Photo by SBOM

Rick Lance is executive director of the Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions (SBOM).

## Campuses are missions field

With more than 330,000 students enrolled Alabama college and university campuses are a great missions field, providing every Alabama Baptist church an unparalleled opportunity to reach students from every corner of Alabama and the world.

Baptist Campus Ministries (BCM), along with church collegiate ministries and collegiate church plants, do a stellar job of reaching college students for Christ. But as many as 200,000 remain unchurched.

Reach Every Student (#reacheverystudent) is a call for Alabama Baptist churches to engage on college campuses. Here are some practical ways your church can help:

► Pray for college students to be open to the gospel.

► Pray God would use BCM, existing churches and new church plants to multiply believers on campuses across our state.

► Pray for campus ministers and church ministers as they live and minister among the challenges of today’s college campuses.

► Engage students from a campus near you in the life and ministry of your church.

For more information contact Mike Nuss at 334-613-2276 or mnuss@alsbom.org.

—Rick Lance

## From the *Twitterverse*

### @preacher13

My prayer today: “that the number of disciples will be multiplied greatly in Jerusalem (Jasper, Alabama)” (Acts 6:7). I’m thankful to God for the disciple-making efforts ongoing but I pray for God and his people to make more disciples in our community.

### @WarrenColeSmith

We need to make it clear that, knowing what may await our Chinese brethren, we must back up any talk about religious freedom with real, tangible actions. That must include giving Christian refugees a place of refuge.

### @Stu\_Davidson

Christ died to renew you. Regenerating your soul was His top priority! You’ve been renovated from the inside out! You’ve been recreated to

reflect Christ’s character. Love and live for him today!

### @DL\_Staples

Give some grace today. “Gracious words are like a honeycomb, sweetness to the soul and health to the body.” — Proverbs 16:24

### @TGC

I’ve seen guys try to plant a vision and not a church. Don’t do that. The Lord plants \*people\* for you to love.

### @alsbom

Pray for pastors that are looking for the opportunity to do what God has called them to do. #PrayingAlabama

### @DailyKeller

Prejudice assumes somebody is the way “all those kinds of people

are” instead of caring enough about the truth to find out what this particular person is like, what this particular person is really saying.

### @jdgrear

The NT is one of the most emphatically anti-racist texts ever written. ... Read it, and you will find that trying to marry Christianity to white-centric nationalism is like trying to marry a cat to a mouse: one is designed to hunt the other, not mate with it. — @RebeccaMcLaugh

### @pastorjgkell

“I am the subject of depressions of spirit so fearful that I hope none of you ever get to such extremes of wretchedness as I go to.” — Charles Spurgeon during the height of his ministry. Weary pastor, do not lose heart.

# Why support state Baptist papers?

## Factual reporting, resources for real-life issues, good news are a few reasons

**Margaret Colson**

Executive director, Association of State Baptist Publications

In an era of subjective news and social media frenzy where do Southern Baptists turn for a trustworthy source of information? For almost 200 years, amid significant societal and technological change, the answer has been the same ... but different.

State Baptist papers have been the go-to source for trustworthy information and inspiration since Georgia's *The Christian Index* was established as the first Baptist state paper in 1822. At least nine other

state papers were founded in the 1800s; 21 papers in the 1900s; and three papers in the 2000s, according to the 2018 Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Annual.



WILLIAMS

### Shift in focus

"Originally independent of the state conventions, state papers provided a forum for Baptist voices and kept people informed about their denomination. The philosophy embraced by state paper editors was to 'tell the truth and trust the people,'" said David Williams, editor of the *Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist* for 22 years.

"While still interested in making sure the people are informed about the inner workings of their state and national conventions papers today generally give a lot of attention to good news about how Baptists are spreading the gospel and sharing the love of Jesus Christ," said Williams, who also serves as the 2019–2020 president of Association of State Baptist Publications (ASBP).

Jennifer Davis Rash, editor-in-chief of *The Alabama Baptist (TAB)* since January 2019, explained some shifts in state papers she has observed in her nearly 25 years with TAB.

"State Baptist newspapers today have a variety of different approaches. Some follow a more corporate communications or public relations style for state convention life while others maintain a hard news, watchdog approach for Baptists in general. Many fall somewhere in between, maintaining proper separation when reporting news stories but also helping promote the opportunities available to Baptists locally, statewide, nationally and around the world," said Rash, president-elect of ASBP.

The earliest state paper editors in the 1800s and even a large part of the 1900s could not begin to conceive of today's technology-driven world or the skyrocketing costs of printing and mailing state papers.

Those two realities have led to creative solutions by state papers. At the end of 2015, *The Christian Index*, which had provided a print publication to its readers for more than 190 years, turned off the printing press and

turned on the computer to become a digital-only publication. The *Index* "had been moving slowly toward [all-digital] for several years," said Scott Barkley, editor of *The Christian Index* since June 2018. Barkley, who served as *Index* associate managing editor when the all-digital approach was launched,

acknowledged he "wasn't involved in the discussions ... to go all-digital," but believes the decision was based on "how best to use Cooperative Program funds for sharing the news of Georgia Baptists," as well as the "pace of news," which meant the biweekly paper's "top stories were old by the time they reached our reader's mailboxes." Today the *Index* distributes a twice-weekly digital newsletter, publishes continually on its website and actively posts social media updates.

### Challenges and opportunities

The "speed at which we can cover Georgia Baptists and the SBC" as well as the ability to reach "segments of our readership" through various platforms are two distinct benefits of the all-digital approach, Barkley said. However, Barkley

said he "wouldn't close the door on the *Index* at some point in the future reestablishing a print presence."

Tennessee's *Baptist and Reflector*, founded in 1835, has shifted its focus in the past 20 years away from "Southern Baptist news" which "is available instantaneously via computer" to "Tennessee Baptist news," said Lonnie Wilkey, editor of the *Baptist and Reflector* since 1998 after serving for 10 years as its associate editor. "We have had to change



BARKLEY



WILKEY

## Association of State Baptist Publications 'the tie that binds'

Established in 1895 as the Southern Baptist Press Association, today's Association of State Baptist Publications (ASBP) is the "tie that binds," said Lonnie Wilkey, editor, *Tennessee Baptist and Reflector*.

"Not many people understand the unique problems and challenges that Baptist papers face. The ASBP provides a forum for editors and staff of papers to bond, share ideas and, hopefully, develop methods and strategies to help our papers not only survive, but thrive in the future. More importantly the camaraderie and fellowship renew my spirit and desire to continue telling the stories of our churches and Baptists in Tennessee," Wilkey said.

David Williams, editor of the *Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist* and 2019–2020 ASBP president, values the ASBP also. "The great-

est benefit ... comes through the relationships we build with one another that go far beyond our meetings. It is wonderful to be able to consider as friends all the editors and staff of Baptist state papers across the nation. When I have a problem or need, I know that I can get help from any number of these colleagues."

In her role as editor-in-chief of *The Alabama Baptist* and ASBP president-elect, Jennifer Davis Rash said, "Our network of state Baptist newspaper leaders has the opportunity to learn and grow together through the ASBP, which is continually adapting to best meet the needs of all participants through professional development and peer support. The ASBP provides a place for us to work together as we explore the latest opportunities to communicate with and connect Baptists." (*TAB*)

as technology has changed,” he said.

In addition to Tennessee Baptist news the *Baptist and Reflector* has published “in-depth stories and columns on issues such as pastoral burnout, depression, domestic violence, abortion, sexual abuse prevention, church security and more. These are all real-life problems that our churches face on a daily basis,” Wilkey said.

“We’re not unlike most other state papers. Print circulation has declined and probably will continue to do so. Increasing printing and postage costs are making it even more difficult,” Wilkey said.

*Baptist and Reflector* leaders have “made a concerted effort to enhance our web presence,” he said, adding, “We began an e-newsletter that is sent weekly to nearly 18,000 key Tennessee Baptist leaders.”

**‘Not convinced’**

Even with these digital enhancements, Wilkey said, “While some people think print will die out completely, I am not convinced.”

Many state Baptist paper editors find themselves “juggling and guessing on how to balance the release of news and information on social media with when to release it in print pieces,” said Shawn Hendricks, editor of *Baptist Press*. Hendricks, who served on the staff of North Carolina’s *Biblical Recorder* from 2011 to 2013, said, “State papers now, more than ever, have to deliver more in-depth, interesting content and details that readers can’t find everywhere else. The articles have to be more compelling and newsy than ever.”

State papers are “more needed than ever. Without them social



Photo by Jennifer Davis Rash

**Southern Baptist Media Day is July 28.**

media banter and debate will become the news providers. More and more facts and solid reporting will be replaced with rumor and speculation. That would be bad news for all of us,” Hendricks said.

To remain relevant today and into

the future state papers must “find their niche and meet the needs of that niche,” Wilkey explained.

Today, even as in years past, state Baptist papers are as unique as their readers; yet they share a common vital goal.

Whether a state paper distributes content in print or strictly online and whether the approach focuses on news or features, “state Baptist newspapers share a common goal of being a trustworthy source for Southern Baptists,” said Rash.

***No matter how the content is distributed or what approach a state paper may take, “state Baptist newspapers share a common goal of being a trustworthy source for Southern Baptists.”***

JENNIFER DAVIS RASH  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, THE ALABAMA BAPTIST

# Social issues often about 'life and dignity'

(continued from page 1) ments directly to homes, establishing new "entertainment districts" where bar customers can walk public streets with open containers of alcohol and expanding Sunday alcohol sales in various communities.

ALCAP continues to monitor legislative efforts to establish a state-sponsored lottery and expand access to medical marijuana, he added.

Russell Moore, president of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC) of the Southern Baptist Convention, said many social issues, including abortion, "are rooted in deeper questions about what it means to be a person

and what does it mean to recognize a person's worth in terms of something other than the perceived usefulness to other people."

The sexual revolution has prompted new definitions of what family is, he said.

"Christians have an opportunity right now to bear witness to a sexual ethic that

is rooted in something more substantial than mere consent," Moore said. "Society may act as though sex is relatively meaningless but we know intuitively that's not the case.

"Those life and dignity issues are related to some of the ongoing bioethical issues related to human gene editing and other questions as

well as end of life concerns like suicide," he continued. "I would argue the increased suicide rate is related both to a decreasing commitment to the sanctity of individual human life and also to a growing spiritual alienation in contemporary life."

Questions of racism, racial reconciliation and racial justice should also be evaluated in terms of human dignity, Moore said.

"The church has been formed not just to proclaim God's word about what righteousness is and what the coming judgment is about but also to embody and to display what a reconciled, common, united body of believers can be," Moore said, quoting Ephesians 3.

Christians should dig

deeper into seemingly unrelated issues to determine their impact on humanity, according to Moore.

## AI used to persecute

"One of the issues facing the church in the world that many people are not thinking about right now is that of artificial intelligence (AI)," Moore said. "AI is a technology that can greatly benefit

the mission of the church. Translation of Bibles, for instance, and other gospel literature can be much easier with artificial intelligence."

But AI and facial recognition are being weaponized by China in order to persecute Christians and other religious minorities.

"Christians should care about all of these things," Moore said. ✝

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## Famous Christians from previous centuries

# Heroes of the Faith

## 2019 marks 200th anniversary of birth of 'Battle Hymn' writer

Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! /  
Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! /  
Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! /  
His truth is marching on."

Julia Ward Howe (1819–1910) — writer, abolitionist and suffragist — wrote the patriotic classic "Battle Hymn of the Republic."

This year marks the 200th anniversary of her birth.

### Hymn legacy

She was born on May 27, 1819, to Samuel and Julia Ward. Her father was a prominent New York City banker. Her mother died when she was five years old.

In 1843, Howe toured the Perkins School for the Blind in

Watertown, Massachusetts. She met and soon married the school's founder Samuel Howe, 18 years her senior. They had six children.

Howe was an abolitionist who worked for freeing the slaves, and she was an active suffragist who founded the New England Suffrage Association and the American Woman Suffrage Association.

Although a prolific writer her legacy is the "Battle Hymn of the Republic."

In November 1861 she met Abraham Lincoln at the White House. Afterwards she, her husband and her pastor watched a public review of troops at Upton Hill, Virginia.

They heard soldiers singing "John Brown's Body," a popular song among the troops. Howe's

pastor suggested she use composer William Steffe's music and write new lyrics for the soldiers' song.

At the Willard Hotel while in Washington, she awoke early on Nov. 19, 1861.

"The long lines of the desired poem began to twine themselves in my mind,"

she later recalled.

After thinking out all the stanzas she sprang from her bed and "scrawled the verses almost without looking at the paper."

The "Battle Hymn of the Republic" was first published on the front

page of *The Atlantic Monthly* in February 1862.

Howe died of pneumonia Oct. 17, 1910, in Portsmouth, Rhode Island.

At her memorial service around 4,000 people sang the "Battle Hymn of the Republic."

### A national song

During the 20th Century the song became a national one: Northern and Southern soldiers sang it together during World War I and evangelists Billy Sunday and Billy Graham helped popularize it during their crusades.

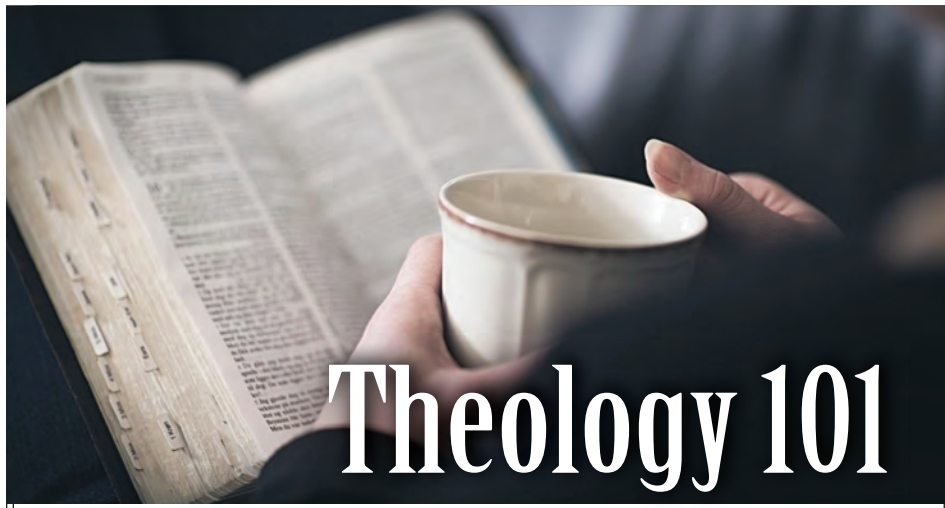
The song served as the finale of the 9/11 Memorial service at Washington National Cathedral. ✝

### By Joanne Sloan

Joanne Sloan, a member of First Baptist Church, Tuscaloosa, has been a published writer of articles and books for 30 years. She has a bachelor's degree double majoring in history and English from East Texas State University (now Texas A&M-Commerce) and a master's degree specializing in English from the University of Arkansas (1978).



HOWE



# Theology 101

BIBLICAL THEOLOGY FOR PEOPLE IN THE PEW

## Thinking about images

### An Image Regained

By Jerry Batson, Th.D.  
Special to The Alabama Baptist

Christ did not only come to be the image of the invisible God to humans but also to make possible that humans might come to bear the image of Christ. As Romans 8:29 says, God has destined Christians “to be conformed to the image of His Son.”

Imaging Christ is a process that takes a lifetime and more. Christians traditionally label the stages in this process as regeneration, sanctification and glorification. Regeneration is the beginning point at which forgiven sinners start the process of bearing the image of Christ.

We often term this beginning point as new birth, such as Jesus urged upon Nicodemus as described in John 3. Thus the salvation the Savior came to make possible is an experiential salvation not merely a religion of external performances or repeated rituals.

#### Work in progress

This conversion experience is the beginning point of a transformation that becomes a work in progress. We often speak of this progression of growing in likeness to Christ as sanctification.

Such a possibility is the wonderful message of 2 Corinthians 3:18: “But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.”

To make this process possible God has not only given us as a mirror His inspired Word in which

to view Christ but also His indwelling Holy Spirit. To these essential provisions God has added the influence, example and encouragement of fellow believers in the context of local churches.

#### Eternity future

What began at a point of conversion and continues as a work in progress will become a work perfected in eternity future. The completion of believers coming to bear the image of Christ awaits our future encounter with Him face to face: “Beloved ... we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is” (1 John 3:2).

This completed stage is often termed glorification when sin-defaced mortals are transformed into the likeness of Christ.

In 1 Corinthians 15:45–49 a contrast is drawn between a likeness to Adam (“the first man was of the earth, made of dust”) and a likeness to Christ (“the last Adam” who was “the Lord from heaven”) before concluding, “As we have borne the image of the man of dust we shall also bear the image of the heavenly man.”

A new beginning issues into a progressive recovery that culminates in a regained goal.✠

*Jerry Batson is a retired Alabama Baptist pastor who also has served as associate dean of Beeson Divinity School at Samford University and professor of several schools of religion during his career.*



# ‘The need is great’

## Venezuelan Baptists see rise in church plants, baptisms in midst of crisis

By Bob Terry  
Special to The Alabama Baptist

The greatest economic collapse of a nation in history outside of war.” That is how many economists describe conditions in Venezuela.

Venezuelan Baptist leaders distributed 100 Bolivar notes to those attending the July 7–11 Annual Gathering of the Baptist World Alliance (BWA) as a reminder to pray for the struggling nation.

Speaking to Baptist leaders from 44 nations Manuel Sangronis and Eller J. Romero, director and associate director of the National Convention of Baptists in Venezuela respectively, shared about the plight of their nation as well as told of a mighty movement of God in the midst of the nation’s catastrophe.

With the aid of neighboring Baptist conventions and other partners such as the International Mission Board, Baptist churches in Venezuela serve more than 300,000

meals each month to the hungry.

“We have learned this is our best moment for connecting with our neighbor to proclaim the message of hope in Jesus,” Sangronis said.

#### New believers

Romero explained the church he attends lost about 100 members who migrated to find jobs. But the social ministries of the church resulted in about 100 new people coming to the church.

Since January that church has baptized 32 new believers, Romero said, and most of them have been reached through helping ministries.

That story is not unique. Sangronis said that since the economic collapse of the nation Baptists have constituted 280 new churches, the most church plants in such a

concentrated time in the history of Baptists in Venezuela.

Most of the new churches resulted from social programs and inroads made into communities through Vacation Bible Schools, he added.

#### ‘There is still God’

In addition the convention has commissioned about 100 national missionaries who are attempting to penetrate the nation with the message of the gospel. Each missionary receives \$5 per month salary.

Despite their best efforts the challenges seem almost overwhelming. Thirty people have been laid off from convention offices, the national seminary and other ministries. Retired pastors who look to the convention for support during their final

years, according to the local Baptist system, find themselves threatened.

Currently each of the retiree families receives \$5 a month, but how long that

can continue is questionable, the leaders said.

“The need for God’s intervention is great,” Romero said. “We have learned when all else fails, there is still God.”

He explained that while Alabama Baptists cannot travel to Venezuela at the moment a program called “The Raven Project” provides a way to help Venezuelan Baptists feed hungry people and minister to other needs.

A \$100 gift will provide a box of food staples for two people for a month.

“We are grateful for the prayers of our Christian brothers and sisters around the world,” Sangronis said. “And we pray they will stand with us during our great need and our great opportunity.”✠

*More information on how to help Venezuelan Baptists is available at <https://www.imb.org/give/project/venezuela-crisis-response>.*



For several years, the State Board of Missions (SBOM) has helped sponsor Super Summer Alabama, a leadership and discipleship camp for Alabama students who have completed grades 8-12.



Every year at Super Summer and SPEAK conference, many students sense a call to vocational ministry.

It's not your typical summer camp. By its nature, the camp attracts students drawn more to topics like theology, spiritual disciplines, missiology and apologetics, and the students come expecting to see God move and work in their lives.

Over the past few years, my state missionary colleague Scooter Kellum and I have made an interesting observation. Each year, we offer a time of discussion on the "call to ministry" and year after year more than 10% of the students have attended this session.

We realize that the call to ministry can seem like the most complex decision to wade through, especially for students. We want to help.

On Saturday, August 17, the SBOM is hosting the Called Conference at Glynwood Baptist Church in Prattville, beginning at 9 a.m. and concluding at 3 p.m. The conference is open to young men and women who are in high school or college and are trying to discern whether or not they're being called into vocational ministry.

We understand that all Christians are called to be active in ministry, but some are called to devote their careers to serving

## SBOM to Offer Conference to Help Students Considering Call to Ministry

in ministry. We will look at many aspects of what it means to surrender to the call.

The conference will feature three large group sessions as well as breakouts

related to pastoral/church planting, children's/preschool, students, missions, discipleship/education, worship, spiritual growth and leading those who are called.

If we help students today lay a firm foundation of a ministry call, then we have helped equip generations to come. Students are bombarded with so many choices and decisions during high school and college years. These choices affect the rest of their lives.

Many well-intentioned students see admirable examples of ministry leaders and think to themselves, "I'd like to do that!" It's our goal to provide students

with practical information and resources during these formative years to make the most God-honoring decision about whether or not they're called to vocational ministry.



By Larry Hyche  
State Missionary

If you know of a high school or college student who may be considering or wrestling with a call to vocational ministry, please let them know of this opportunity.

For more information about the Called Conference or to register, please visit [alsbom.org/called](http://alsbom.org/called) or contact State Missionary Larry Hyche, 1-800-264-1225, ext. 268; (334) 613-2268; or [lhyche@alsbom.org](mailto:lhyche@alsbom.org).

*We realize that the call to ministry can seem like the most complex decision to wade through, especially for students.*



Photos by Ashleigh Hicks

# Helping at the border a 'biblical mandate,' Baptist worker says

(continued from page 1)

Alvin Migues, emergency disaster services director for the Texas division of Salvation Army, said the organization recently convened a meeting in Mexico City that included discussion of enhancing its coordination with divisions on the Mexico side of the border.

Stice said many Baptists volunteer at so-called "release shelters" — facilities that offer short-term housing and food for immigrants after they are released from Border Patrol facilities but before they travel to a permanent location to await a court date.

## Meeting basic needs

One such shelter is operated by West Brownsville Baptist Church in Texas, taking in about 25 people per day.

Another is located in Del Rio, where Texas Baptists and the Salvation Army are preparing for an influx of support from Samaritan's Purse, the evangelical Christian humanitarian aid



Photo courtesy of ACT/Sean Hawkey

A Honduran migrant family arrives at the Benito Juárez sports complex in Tijuana, Mexico, in November 2018.

organization run by Franklin Graham.

Graham told CBN News that Samaritan's Purse is now working with 18 partners to assist more than 200 churches caring directly for immigrants on both sides of the border.

Stice said the volunteers typically help prepare and serve food at the shelters as well as help keep shower units clean.

"(The migrants) come in and get something to eat,

maybe some clothes, a shower if needed and have a safe place to spend the night," said Stice.

Churches also are finding ways to minister to border patrol agents and their families.

A missions team from Prestonwood Baptist Church, Plano, Texas, held a fun day and gave out backpacks and school supplies to agents' family members in El Paso.

Some observers, including Stice, said that evangelical groups have become increasingly involved simply because of the political and religious debate over immigration.

But Stice dismisses the politics of the border as the driving force behind Baptists' commitment, arguing the motivation is primarily spiritual.

"It's a biblical mandate," he said.

## How to help

For information on how your church, small group or missions team can help with ministry efforts at the border, contact *The Alabama Baptist* at 205-870-4720, ext 103. (RNS, TAB)

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Photo by Jessica Ingram

## Birmingham's Hansen featured on MBTS panel

Collin Hansen (second from left), Birmingham resident and member of Redeemer Community Church, joins Jason Allen (right), president of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (MBTS) in Kansas City, Missouri; Dean Inserra (second from right), pastor of City Church, Tallahassee, Florida; and Micah Fries (left), pastor of Brainerd Baptist


Church, Chattanooga, Tennessee; for a discussion on cultural Christianity and the gospel at the MBTS Alumni and Friends Luncheon held June 12 as a part of the 2019 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting.

Hansen also serves on the advisory board for Beeson Divinity School at Samford University and as editorial director for The Gospel Coalition. (TAB)

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## CHURCH POSITIONS

### SENIOR PASTOR

Parkview Baptist Church in Eufaula, Alabama, is taking resumés for the senior pastor position. Please email resumés to: [john.robinson@westrock.com](mailto:john.robinson@westrock.com). Contact information is John Robinson, 706-573-5102.

### SENIOR PASTOR

FBC Tillman's Corner in Mobile, Alabama. Must have at least a master's degree from an SBC seminary, theologically conservative and with at least seven years of experience as a senior pastor. Average 850-900 in worship. Please send resumé to: [FBTCsearchcommittee@gmail.com](mailto:FBTCsearchcommittee@gmail.com).

### PASTOR

Immanuel Baptist Church is accepting resumés for pastor. We are a conservative, traditional worship style congregation. We are seeking a pastor with excellent preaching and church building skills, able to lead in reaching younger families and individuals while maintaining senior member relationships. Excellent facilities. Previous senior pastor experience and seminary education preferred. Please include web links to sermons or current DVDs. Email resumés to: [ibc.pastorsearch@myimmanuel.net](mailto:ibc.pastorsearch@myimmanuel.net).

### PASTOR

Camellia Baptist Church, 201 Woodvale Rd., Prattville, AL 36067, prayerfully seeking God's choice for a full-time pastor. All applicants should have previous senior pastor experience and have earned a masters of divinity. Resumés with photo may be mailed: ATTN: Pastor/Search. [www.cbcpattville.org](http://www.cbcpattville.org).

### PASTOR

Big Hurricane Baptist Church, located in Brookwood, Alabama, has been a beacon in the community for nearly 200 years. The church is prayerfully seeking a bivocational/part-time pastor with a Christ-like spirit to lead and teach a small but loving and faithful congregation. If interested please contact Larry Holloway at 205-799-2438.

### BIVOCATIONAL MUSIC MINISTER & PIANIST

Southside Baptist Church, Monroeville, Alabama, is seeking a bivocational music minister and a pianist. Send resumés to: P.O. Box 9, Monroeville, AL 36461 or email to: [sbch@frontiernet.net](mailto:sbch@frontiernet.net).

### MINISTER OF SENIOR ADULTS

Meadow Brook Baptist Church

in Birmingham is searching for a part-time minister of senior adults. Responsibilities include leading, caring and guiding all senior adult programs and activities. Interested candidates may send resumés to: [cjones@meadowbrookbaptist.org](mailto:cjones@meadowbrookbaptist.org).

### STUDENT PASTOR

Mauldin First Baptist Church, Mauldin, South Carolina, is seeking to hire a full-time student pastor. Primary duties include overseeing the ministries of students and their families from sixth grade through college. Applicants must possess a bachelor's degree, and three years of experience is preferred. Please submit resumés and/or questions to: [wleonard@fbcmauldin.org](mailto:wleonard@fbcmauldin.org).

### YOUTH MINISTER

Cottage Hill Baptist Church (Bessemer Association) is seeking candidates to restart the youth ministry. Please email resumés to: [lorettamcconnell@gmail.com](mailto:lorettamcconnell@gmail.com).

### CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTER

Locust Fork Baptist Church in Locust Fork, Alabama, is seeking a full-time children and family minister. A complete job description with requirements is available upon request. Resumés must be submitted by Aug. 8 by email to: [locustforkbaptiststaffing@gmail.com](mailto:locustforkbaptiststaffing@gmail.com) or mailed to: LFBC Personnel Team, P.O. Box 97, Locust Fork, AL 35097.

### CHILDREN'S DIRECTOR

The First Baptist Church of White Plains is seeking a part-time children's director for birth through grade six. Interested individuals may submit resumés to the church address: 160 White Plains Road, Anniston AL 36207, or contact church office at 256-237-7849. Job description available upon request.

## OTHER POSITIONS

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## MINISTRIES

### BEAUREGARD STRONG BENEFIT NIGHT

Aug. 2 at 6 p.m. Providence Baptist Church, 2807 Lee Road 166, Opelika. Come enjoy a night of comedy, magic and music benefiting families impacted by the March 3 tornado in the Beaugard area. Free admission. Donations and gifts cards are appreciated to help the people of Beaugard rebuild their lives. Doors open at 5:15 p.m. For more information, visit [www.thealabamabaptist.org/entertainment](http://www.thealabamabaptist.org/entertainment).

### TAB PODCAST

The TAB News podcast provides content from *The Alabama Baptist* each week in a radio-show-style format for listeners to download and listen to at their convenience. Listen to the TAB News podcast anywhere you get your podcasts such as iTunes, Stitcher, etc., or visit [www.thealabamabaptist.org/explore/podcasts](http://www.thealabamabaptist.org/explore/podcasts). New episodes are released weekly.

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*\*Photo is representative of a child in care.*



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**THANK YOU!**

Thank you to everyone who made a Grace Gift to Alabama Baptist Children's Homes. To learn more about Grace Gifts or how to make one, visit [alabamachild.org/give](http://alabamachild.org/give) or call **205.982.1112**.

# 3 stories you should know



Pixabay

A team of college ministry leaders from Judson College; Metro Mobile Baptist Campus Ministries; Eastmont Baptist Church, Montgomery; and Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions were part of a recent vision team visit to Salt Lake City. The vision team explored missions opportunities and partnerships available in the area. More than half (55%) of Utah's population is Mormon. Only 7% of adults in the state are evangelical Protestants. (TAB)

## Christianbook drops CBD branding, logo

Christian Book Distributors has announced it will consolidate under the name Christianbook and cease using the abbreviation CBD.

Christianbook president and CEO Ray Hendrickson said the CBD logo has worked well for 40 years but the recent rise in popularity of cannabidiol, a medicinally used product derived from the cannabis (marijuana) plant and commonly referred to as "CBD," has led to brand confusion.

The company dropped "Distributors" when it launched its website, [www.christianbook.com](http://www.christianbook.com), in the late 1990s.

Christianbook will continue to sell books, Bibles, home-school materials, gifts, toys and games, church supplies, academic resources and other related items, Hendrickson said. (TAB)

## Court OKs abortion funding changes

The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals on July 11 upheld its June decision allowing the Trump administration to enforce new rules blocking Title X family planning funds from going to abortion facilities.

The 7-4 vote rejected an emergency stay request from Planned Parenthood, 20 U.S. states, the District of Columbia and other abortion-rights groups.

The appeals court said it would review the case against the new regulations, but the new ruling allows the funding change to take effect in the meantime. Federal judges blocked enforcement of the rules after the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services introduced them in February. Planned Parenthood receives about \$60 million a year from Title X. (BP)

## — NEWSBRIEFS —

### Pleasant Hill Baptist Church celebrates 200 years of ministry



On June 2, Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, Millry, celebrated its bicentennial anniversary.

Former pastor Ernest Tucker was the guest speaker. Music was presented by the church choir and specials were sung by music director Janet Pittman, Brenda Oates, Jane Koen and Brenda Price.

Church history was shared by Sammy and Clarence Carpenter, and Sara Green.

Jerrold Hare presented the Washington Baptist Association church with a commemorative plaque on behalf of the Alabama Baptist Historical Commission. Photos and a list of pastors were on display.

"It was a great day," Pastor Leon Parnell said. "People were there from all over the state." (TAB)



Photo by Jerrold Hare

### China abuses against Muslim groups noted in religious freedom report



Despite "glimmers of progress" in religious freedom globally last year, key concerns were noted by U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo in releasing the 2018 Annual Report on International Religious Freedom (IRF).

Abuses in China warranted a special section in the IRF report, Pompeo said in a news conference following the report's release June 21.

Among the concerns: the plight of at least 800,000 and up to possibly more than 2 million Uighurs, ethnic Kazakhs and members of other Muslim groups — mostly Chinese citizens — held in detention facilities in Xinjiang.

Sam Brownback, U.S. ambassador-at-large for international religious freedom, said the Chinese camps are "designed to strip away the culture, identity and faith of these religious communities."

But in addition to China he said the report exposed "a chilling array of abuses committed last year by oppressive regimes, violent extremist groups and individual citizens" around the world.

The report covers countries and non-state organizations such as Islamic terrorist groups that violate the fundamental human right of religious freedom by repression, imprisonment or torture.

Pompeo cited Uzbekistan as a place where progress has been made. In 2018 the Uzbek government passed a religious freedom roadmap, released 1,500 religious prisoners and cleared 16,000 people who were blacklisted from travel because of their religious affiliations.

Meanwhile, Iran, Russia and Burma remain examples of continuing offenders of religious freedom, Pompeo said. To read the full State Department report, visit [state.gov/reports/2018-report-on-international-religious-freedom](http://state.gov/reports/2018-report-on-international-religious-freedom). (BP)

### Bethel Baptist Church celebrates loan payoff with note burning



In May, Bethel Baptist Church, Dora, held its annual homecoming service and celebrated burning the note on the \$1.8 million loan used to construct the church's current worship center and 12,000-square-foot children's facility.

# News near you

## BESSEMER ASSOCIATION

▶ **New Faith Baptist Church, Pleasant Grove**, will host The Woodalls in concert July 27 at 6 p.m. Mike Bell is pastor.

## BETHLEHEM ASSOCIATION

▶ **Mount Olive Baptist Church, Monroeville**, will host a homecoming and revival Aug. 4–7. The Sunday service will begin at 10:30 a.m. and feature music by Four the King. Josh Turberville will be preaching. Monday through Wednesday services will begin at 6 p.m. and Scott Slayton will be the guest speaker. Mike Leys is pastor.

## BIBB ASSOCIATION

▶ On June 2, **Mount Carmel Baptist Church, West Blocton**, celebrated its 150th anniversary.

Former pastor Milton Simpson was the guest speaker. Kenny Hatcher, who was ordained at Mount Carmel Baptist, sang special music and Betty Reach was the guest pianist.

Joan Jennings presented the church history



Photo by Johnnie Sentell

including history of the church bell which is rung every Sunday.

Johnnie Sentell, representing the Alabama Baptist Historical Commission, presented a plaque to the church. Bill Russell, associational missions director for Bibb Baptist Association brought greetings to the church, and Charles Dean presented a resolution from the Alabama Senate on behalf of Sen. Cam Ward.

“It was a fantastic time,” said music director Gary Monk. “We had between 175 and 200 people attend.” Tim Jennings is pastor.

## BIRMINGHAM METRO ASSOCIATION

▶ **Rob Paul** is the new pastor of **Huffman Baptist Church, Birmingham**. He has served as pastor of churches in Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana. He continues to work with churches as a church revitalization strategist through Rob Paul Ministries. Paul holds degrees from Troy University and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Melanie, have two children and three grandchildren.



PAUL

## COOSA RIVER ASSOCIATION

▶ **First Baptist Church, Tallasahatchie**, will host homecoming and revival services July 28–31. The homecoming will be held July 28 at 10:30 a.m. and will feature guest speaker Darryl Wood and music by The Dennis Family. Revival services will be held July 29–31 at 6:30 p.m. Jim Griffin is pastor.

## DEKALB ASSOCIATION

▶ **New Harmony Baptist Church, Albertville**, will host a special singing Aug. 4 at 10:45 a.m. featuring Triumphant Quartet. Lynn Darnell is pastor.

## MARSHALL ASSOCIATION

▶ **Daniel Waid** is the new pastor of **Central Baptist Church, Albertville**. His first Sunday will be July 28. He previously served as student pastor at First Baptist Church, Rusk, Texas. Waid holds degrees from University of Montevallo and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. He also served in Sudan for one summer with Nehemiah Teams. He and his wife, Holly, have two children.



WAID

## SELMA ASSOCIATION

▶ **Shady Grove Baptist Church, Selma**, will host a homecoming service July 28. Point of Honor will sing at 9:30 a.m. and former pastor Chris Bain will speak at 11 a.m. Terry Johnson is pastor.

## WALKER ASSOCIATION

▶ **Mount Vernon Baptist Church, Jasper**, will celebrate the ministry of Pastor John Gates on Aug. 4 at 10:30 a.m. Gates has served as pastor of Mount Vernon Baptist for 20 years alongside his wife, Julie. Rick Lance, executive director of the Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions, will be the guest speaker. A fellowship meal will follow the service. 🇺🇸

## — NEWSBRIEFS —

Some of Bethel’s oldest members participated in the extinguishing of the note alongside Pastor John S. Foles (second from right), including



Photo courtesy of Bethel Baptist

Terrill Payne (left), Delane Cochran (second from left) and Lola Hollis (right).

“A special thanks goes to everyone who sacrificially gave for the glory

of God and that made the entire day a huge success,” said Foles. (TAB)

## National African American Fellowship launches new website, branding



The National African American Fellowship (NAAF) of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) has rebranded with the new website [naaftogether.org](http://naaftogether.org), a new logo and updated social media presence.

NAAF rebranded to become more attractive to a social media-savvy audience, create a more navigable and functional website and to

more efficiently share information with fellowship churches, said rebranding task force leader Kevin James.

“I’m excited about it, and I’m just excited about where God is leading us,” James said. “The number one thing that we want to do, and that’s why we chose the URL [naaftogether.org](http://naaftogether.org), is to connect everybody together.”

The new logo, featuring a cross transcending a globe, is designed to spotlight the gospel message, unity and affiliation with the SBC, NAAF leaders said. NAAF utilizes Facebook, YouTube and Periscope, and is developing a presence on Twitter and Instagram.

New resources for pastors and state African American fellowships include PowerPoint decks, NAAF flyers, letterhead, links to NAAF partners within and outside the SBC and contact information for NAAF leaders.

The fellowship’s churches have a combined membership of 400,000, NAAF said on its website, with congregations ranging in size “from house churches to some of the largest churches in America and ministering to people in rural, urban, suburban and multi-ethnic communities across the country.” (BP)

## Cain celebrates 15 total years at Circlewood Baptist Church



On July 22, Rob Cain marked one year since he returned to Circlewood Baptist Church, Tuscaloosa, as associate pastor for college, young adults, missions and recreation.

This year will also mark Cain’s 15th year of ministry at Circlewood Baptist. Cain previously served on the church’s staff from 1986 to 2000



CAIN

as youth, college and recreation director. He left in 2000 to serve at the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association as a full-time festival associate.

Cain continues to serve as athletic director and campus pastor at American Christian Academy in Tuscaloosa.

Cain is passionate about international student missions and is the founder and director of No Compromise International, which provides short-term missions opportunities. He and his wife, Taffy, have two children. Herb Thomas is pastor. (TAB)



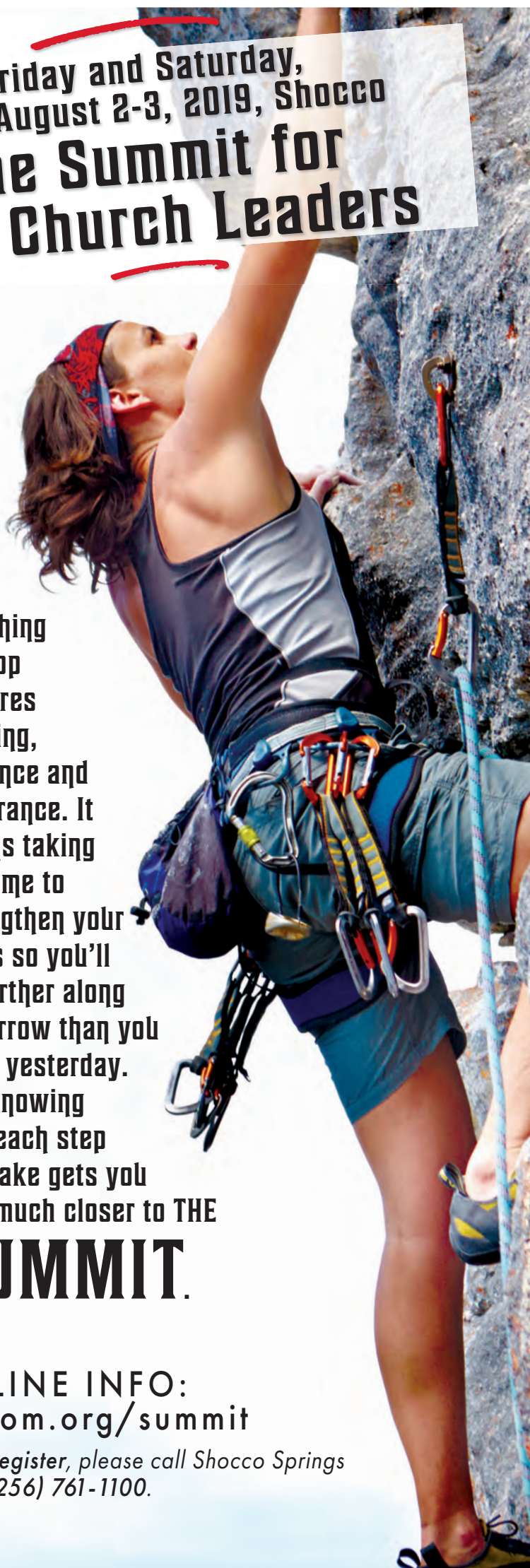
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**AUGUST**

- 1-3 **Alabama Church Planting Basics**, Glynwood, Prattville, Lamar Duke, ext. 332
- 2-3 **The Summit: For Church Leaders**, Shocco Springs, Talladega, Jamie Baldwin, ext. 240
- 2-3 **English as a Second Language Workshop**, Prattville FBC, Kristy Kennedy, ext. 311
- 2-3 **Critical Incident Stress Management Group Debriefing**, 3 Circle Church, Daphne, Mark Wakefield, ext. 267
- 4 **Social Issues Sunday**, Keith Hinson, ext. 289
- 4-8 **Collegiate Week**, Falls Creek, Oklahoma, Mike Nuss, ext. 276
- 6 **Church Financial Issues**, Dale Baptist Association Office, Ozark, Linda Hicks, ext. 263
- 8 **Church Financial Issues**, SBOM Office Facility, Prattville, Linda Hicks, ext. 263
- 10 **Discipling New Hispanic Believers**, SBOM Office Facility, Prattville, Annel Robayna, ext. 270
- 12 **Biblical Church Revitalization**, Lindsay Lane, Athens, Daniel Wilson, ext. 343
- 13 **Biblical Church Revitalization**, Samford University, Birmingham, Daniel Wilson, ext. 343
- 13 **Church Financial Issues**, CrossPoint, Trussville, Linda Hicks, ext. 263
- 14 **Biblical Church Revitalization**, SBOM Office Facility, Prattville, Daniel Wilson, ext. 343
- 15 **Biblical Church Revitalization**, University of Mobile, Mobile, Daniel Wilson, ext. 343
- 17 **Called Conference**, Glynwood, Prattville, Monica Thompson, ext. 227
- 18 **Read *The Alabama Baptist* Sunday**
- 18-25 **Royal Ambassador Week**, Monica Thompson, ext. 227
- 20 **Church Financial Issues**, Northbrook, Cullman, Linda Hicks, ext. 263
- 22 **Church Financial Issues**, Tuskegee Lee Baptist Association Office, Opelika, Linda Hicks, ext. 263
- 22 **Uplink on the Road**, Dawson Memorial, Birmingham, Scooter Kellum, ext. 280
- 29 **OneDay for Worship Leaders**, Hunter Street, Hoover, April Brewer, ext. 279

**SEPTEMBER**

- 2 **Labor Day**
- 3 **The Heart of Leadership: Becoming a Leader People Want to Follow**, SBOM Facility, Prattville, Debbie Dickey, ext. 218
- 5 **Get Acquainted Day**, SBOM Office Facility, Prattville, Rita Goldman, ext. 249
- 8 **Single Adult Sunday**, Eileen Mitchell, ext. 221
- 8-15 **Week of Prayer for State Missions and Myers-Mallory State Missions Offering**, Laura Glass, ext. 226
- 12 **Personnel Management**, SBOM Office Facility, Prattville, Lee Wright, ext. 241, or Linda Hicks, ext. 263
- 12-13 **Alabama Singing Men Retreat**, Shocco Springs, Talladega, Keith Hibbs, ext. 217
- 12-13 **Alabama Singing Women Retreat**, Shocco Springs, Talladega, Cindy Parrish, ext. 230
- 15 **Anti-Gambling Sunday**, Keith Hinson, ext. 289
- 16 **Preparing for Retirement**, Mobile Baptist Association Office, Mobile, Linda Hicks, ext. 263
- 17 **2019 Singin'**, University BC, Huntsville, Eileen Mitchell, ext. 221
- 17 **Preparing for Retirement**, Canaan, Bessemer, Linda Hicks, ext. 263
- 18 **Preparing for Retirement**, SBOM Office Facility, Prattville, Linda Hicks, ext. 263
- 19 **Preparing for Retirement**, Decatur First, Linda Hicks, ext. 263
- 26 **Personnel Management**, Birmingham First, Lee Wright, ext. 241, or Linda Hicks, ext. 263

**OCTOBER**

- **Cooperative Program Month**
- **Minister Appreciation Month**
- 4-5 **International Friends Retreat**, WorldSong, Cook Springs, Debbie Adams, ext. 275, or Chris Mills, ext. 379
- 8 **Abundant Living for Adults 55+**, Prattville First, Eileen Mitchell, ext. 221
- 10-12 **Interlink Marriage Retreat**, Camp Baldwin, Elberta, Scooter Kellum, ext. 280

# Barbour Association hosts pastors, ministers encouragement breakfast

Don Hatcher says he's always been a breakfast kind of guy. Throughout the years of his pastoral ministry he said definite benefits have come from meeting up with other pastors for breakfast.

"When I came to Barbour Baptist Association, I wanted to eventually make these benefits available to my pastors," said Hatcher, who has served as Barbour's associational missions director for the past six years.

They're doing it now on Monday mornings and though it can be hard especially for bivocational pastors to set aside the time, it's worth it, he said.

These are the benefits — and the reasons Hatcher would encourage pastors to meet regularly if they aren't doing it already.

### 1. Fellowship

"Most pastors enjoy a healthy fellowship with their church members, but the truth is they need to supplement the church fellowship with fellowship with their

peers in ministry," Hatcher said. "It is different in that it is unguarded. As a close-knit group pastors can be candid about their struggles without fear of condemnation."

### 2. Honesty

This one may seem strange, Hatcher said — because there's not a pastor alive who doesn't go through seasons when he would rather no one ask him, "How's your church doing?" It's easier to just say "fine" than to answer truthfully during times of low attendance, budget crunches, lack of baptisms and internal conflicts.

But at breakfast "there are minimal facades," he said. "We are all on the same page. We know how our peers feel when going through a difficult season. We know because we have been there. Why lie about

it? Let's just get it out — be honest about it without fear of criticisms."

It's an opportunity for pastors to get their peers on board as their encouragers and prayer partners.

### 3. Camaraderie

Most pastors really are lonely, Hatcher said. "They know the lines have to be

drawn that prevent getting too close to their church members. They also know that people with whom they interact with outside the church family are not

usually interested in 'cozying up' to a pastor."

Camaraderie gets people together who have the same aim, he said. "When pastors and ministers gather for our breakfast meetings they know that each guy present is in the same 'business' and therefore has the same aim." (Grace Thornton)

**"Most pastors ... need ... fellowship with their peers in ministry."**

**Don Hatcher  
Barbour Baptist Association**

# BEAUREGARD

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## Christian Crossword

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**Across**

1. Works, which were \_\_\_ in you. (Matt. 11:21)
5. Him and \_\_\_.
8. Kimberly. (nickname)
10. This ... sinful \_\_\_. (Mark 8:38)
12. Her countenance was no more \_\_\_. (1 Sam. 1:18)
13. Set it up there under an \_\_\_. (Josh. 24:26)
14. Whose waters cast up mire and \_\_\_. (Isa. 57:20)
17. Emergency Medical Technician. (abbr.)
18. \_\_\_ and mercy shall follow me. (Ps. 23:6)
20. Shed \_\_\_ blood. (Gen. 37:22)
21. There shall be \_\_\_ poor among you. (Deut. 15:4)
22. Ye have \_\_\_ portion ... in Jerusalem. (Neh. 2:20)
25. Audiovisual. (abbr.)
26. Large tree, largely destroyed by blight.
28. Though now ye \_\_\_ him not. (1 Pet. 1:8)
29. From my youth \_\_\_. (Luke 18:21)
30. They that handle the \_\_\_. (Judg. 5:14)
31. Love is the \_\_\_ of the law. (Rom. 13:10)

**Down**

2. Bashan was ruled by King \_\_\_. (Deut. 3:1)
3. Bring the offering ... of the \_\_\_ wine. (Neh. 10:39)
4. Printer's measure.
5. See that ye \_\_\_ the matter. (2 Chron. 24:5)
6. Estimated Time of Arrival. (abbr.)
7. Jumps on his horse and \_\_\_.
8. Something a sailor is good at.
9. Maketh. (mod.)
11. Go on before \_\_\_. (1 Sam. 25:19)
14. He that is mighty hath \_\_\_ ... great things. (Luke 1:49)
15. Set ... the \_\_\_ ... in the house of God. (2 Chron. 33:7)
16. Registered Nurse. (abbr.)
18. Ye shall be brought before \_\_\_ and kings. (Matt. 10:18)
19. Ship's cry of distress.
20. To sleep for a little while.
23. Stretching forth thine hand to \_\_\_. (Acts 4:30)
24. In thy presence is \_\_\_ of joy. (Ps. 16:11)
27. Tooth.
32. The unfeigned \_\_\_ that is in thee. (2 Tim. 1:5)
33. But if we walk in the \_\_\_. (1 John 1:7)
34. "Are you coming?" "\_\_\_ minute."
35. He shall set the \_\_\_ on the left. (Matt. 25:33)
40. Charge for professional services.
41. To be with Christ; which is \_\_\_ better. (Phil. 1:23)
42. Small imaginary being.

# SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS

For July 28

## Explore the Bible

By Jay T. Robertson, Ph.D.  
Assistant Professor of Christian Studies, University of Mobile



### DILIGENT 2 Timothy 2:14–26

#### Two Groups (14–19)

In these verses a sharp contrast is drawn between two types of teachers or workmen. The good workmen were devoted to the Word of truth and were approved by God. In contrast the bad workmen were not devoted to the truth (vv. 16–18). They were not approved because they denied biblical revelation and engaged in human speculation. Consequently the good workmen stood unashamed whereas the bad workmen should have been deeply ashamed.

Paul exhorted Timothy to challenge these faithful men to be approved workmen. They must work hard. Spiritual sweat is required. “Word” work is hard work. It is hard work to understand the teaching of Scripture rightly and then present it clearly and understandable to the hearers.

The good workmen worked diligently and lived God-centered lives. They lived for the approval of God and not of people. God-centered workmen wanted to be faithful, not flashy or famous. The good workmen were careful and accurate in their teaching. Good workmen worked diligently to “cut it straight.” They aimed to teach the Word correctly to help the hearers stay on the path of life.

The bad workmen led people down a dead-end path. They swerved from the truth. They missed the mark by denying a future bodily resurrection. This false teaching spreads like gangrene, which is the decay of tissue in part of the body where the blood supply is blocked due to an injury or disease. Just as gangrene spreads throughout the body bringing death so does false teaching.

#### Two Vessels (20–22)

The large house refers to the visible church and the vessels refer to two types of teachers present in the church. The honorable teacher must be pure. The cleansing in view here is of both life and doctrine. “If anyone purifies himself from anything dishonorable” seems to refer to the

corrupt teaching of Hymenaeus and Philetus and the ungodliness it produced. Honorable vessels are set apart as holy and useful to Jesus.

The way to cleanse oneself is to become detached from that which is evil and attached to that which is good. Honorable vessels must flee from youthful passions. These youthful desires include the inordinate craving for the satisfaction of the physical appetites, the ungoverned passion for power and control and the uncontrolled yearning for material possessions and the glory that goes with them.

Flee from youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace with other faithful brothers. Honorable vessels are to run after the state of heart and mind which is in harmony with God’s law (righteousness), humble and dynamic confidence in God (faith), deep personal affection for the brothers (love) and undisturbed awareness of God’s presence with them (peace). Honorable vessels will flee from all that is not Christ-like. Pursue a practical holiness.

#### Two Approaches (23–26)

Faithful teachers must be devoted to preaching revelation, not debating human speculations. In these verses Paul contrasted the character of the Lord’s servant (slave) with false teachers who loved to quarrel about speculations. The faithful teacher must be gentle to everyone. This word means approachable, not intolerant, sarcastic or scornful. He must be kind even with people who disagree with him.

Faithful teachers are to teach the truth patiently to those who oppose them.

The goal of such an attitude and such an approach is the opponent’s salvation. God grants repentance as the truth of the gospel is proclaimed. Faithful teachers are not looking to win arguments but to win people to faith in Christ. They want to watch people turn from sin and to Christ and lay down their false doctrines for the truth of the gospel.✠

## Bible Studies for Life

By Roy E. Ciampa, Ph.D., S. Louis and Ann W. Armstrong  
Professor of Religion, Samford University



### DEPEND ON GOD 2 Chronicles 14:9–15

Last week we learned about King Asa’s faithful obedience to the Lord and his godly wisdom in preparing the nation for times of trouble and conflict when blessed with times of peace and rest. This week we see how he and his kingdom responded once those times of trouble and conflict inevitably arrived.

#### Call on God when problems arise. (9–11)

Asa had done his best to prepare for possible future attacks (vv. 6–8) but still he found himself confronted by an opposing force armed with overwhelming numbers and power.

It is not known if Zerah the Cushite (or Ethiopian) was leading an army on behalf of an Egyptian pharaoh, for an otherwise unknown Arab coalition or for some other power. But he came with an overwhelmingly powerful force up to Mareshah, located about 30 miles southwest of Jerusalem.

Asa knew that despite all his prudent preparations, humanly speaking he was facing an unbeatable foe. But Asa had seen his father Abijah trust in the Lord when he had faced a much more powerful force (see 2 Chron. 13:3–18). And he must have understood that his father and his army “succeeded because they depended on the Lord” (2 Chron. 13:18).

Asa followed that example of godly leadership and called on the Lord recognizing his total dependence on Him.

Both Asa and his father followed the model laid out in Solomon’s temple dedication prayer (2 Chron. 6:34–35). And he understood this to be a case of holy war, one between the Lord God and His enemies (v. 11).

He used all the resources he had prepared over the years, but he relied on the Lord and counted on His intervention to see the people victorious over their enemies. We also need to learn from Asa’s example of great faith here just as he

learned from the example of his father Abijah.

The lesson applies whether we are facing a seemingly insurmountable problem or one we are tempted to think we can handle on our own. Whether our problem is great or small, godly wisdom reminds us to trust God for guidance and provision in every situation.

#### Trust in God as you face your problems. (12–15)

The battle was the Lord’s and so the result is not understood to be Judah’s victory but God’s.

It is the Lord God who strikes, crushes and fills His people’s enemies with terror.

Asa and his men reaped the benefits of the Lord’s intervention on their behalf. Presumably the villages that were destroyed and plundered were guilty of supporting and resourcing the defeated army and thus suffered the consequences of their defeat.

Two elements of the narrative combine to suggest that in a situation where Judah was threatened with a devastating loss, by God’s intervention they experienced only blessing instead.

First, there is no mention of any losses on the part of Asa and his men.

Second, in the end they were able to carry off tremendous plunder and thus were materially better off than when they began.

God does not promise us that things will always turn out as we hope. But He does promise us He will be with us to the end (Matt. 28:20).

Romans 8:31–39 similarly reminds us nothing in all of creation (see the lists in Rom. 8:35, 38–39) can ever separate us from God and His love for us in Christ.

As the book of Revelation also emphasizes (see Rev. 2:7, 11, 17, 26; 3:5, 12, 21) our victory is not found in our success in every endeavor but in our commitment to trust in and be faithful to God in every circumstance and to leave in His hands all that is beyond our power.✠



# Media reviews

MOVIE

## Surfer Bethany Hamilton featured in new film 'Unstoppable'

America first met Bethany Hamilton as the 13-year-old surfer who lost her arm to a tiger shark.

A new documentary, "Bethany Hamilton: Unstoppable," follows 2011's "Soul Surfer" dramatization of Hamilton's ascendancy as a world-class surfer. This sequel captures the essence of this fearless athlete and what her story offers the world.

In 2010 reporters were astounded by the then-19-year-old's answer to the following question: "The Lord has used this incident in your life to help others, but if you could go back to that day would you have stayed out of the water?"

### Amazing journey

"Umm ... no," she thoughtfully began. "It was God's will for it to happen. So much good has come out of what seems like a terrible thing and it's been an amazing journey. I'm still doing

what I want to do. More than what I ever dreamed of. And I know that God's in control, that this has been a part of His plan."

For many "Soul Surfer" lacked the intensity or depth that Hamilton's story demanded. Her tale is one not so much of what was lost but what she found. Her faith increased rather than diminished after the shark attack and various critics felt it didn't transfer onto the screen.

In "Bethany Hamilton: Unstoppable," Hamilton, now a wife and mother, takes on her greatest sports challenge: the biggest wave of her career (ironically named "Jaws").

Made in 2018 the PG-rated documentary from ES Entertainment is beautifully shot and emotionally impactful. What's more, care has been taken to give viewers a clean movie about wave-conquering athletes. And though the young women are always in

IN THEATERS NOW



Studio photo/ES Entertainment

Bethany Hamilton remains a surfing star more than 15 years after losing her arm in a shark attack at age 13. The 2011 movie 'Soul Surfer' is a dramatization of the attack and her recovery.



Studio photo/ES Entertainment

Bethany Hamilton interacts with a crew member working on the new film by ES Entertainment about her life, 'Bethany Hamilton: Unstoppable,' in theaters now.

swimwear, the camera never lewdly ogles them.

As with "Soul Surfer," presumably in an attempt to garner a larger audience than just that of the faith-based community, this movie is more about Bethany's determination to overcome the waves than about her spiritual growth.

The intent of the filmmakers is to reflect the true nature of athletes as they challenge nature, their bodies and their minds. But while it speaks to young women about self-empowerment, the documentary also offers a pronounced philosophy concerning overcoming and succeeding. It maintains that while people can direct you toward your goal, ultimately it's up to you to fight for your success.

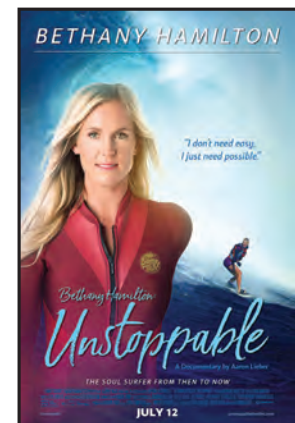
There are subtle messages about family and faith,

but many who have heard Bethany proclaim her devotion to God through Jesus Christ may be somewhat disappointed that there isn't a bit more biblical influence in the film.

With that in mind the following suggested DVD companion may be spiritually rewarding.

"Heart of a Soul Surfer," a 2007 documentary available on Amazon, does present the gospel message upfront and unapologetically. It contains dialogue between believers and those who don't understand what people like Bethany Hamilton have found, despite what they've lost.

Both "Heart of a Soul Surfer" and "Unstoppable" feature exclusive footage



of Bethany before and after the attack, including her first attempts at surfing with one arm as well as her winning the 2005 NSSA National Surfing Championship in the Explorer Women's event just 19 months

later, besting the reigning six-time champion.

### Heartfelt faith

"Heart of a Soul Surfer" raises the question: Why do these things happen? And young Bethany answers the question, then and now, based on a heartfelt faith in Jesus. (BP)

# Cowboys serving Christ

## Kansas rodeo Bible camp combines passion for 'Christ, kids and cowboying'

**L**aughter and squeals abound as water balloons fly through the air.

The traditional water balloon fight of summer camp comes to an end with a not-so-traditional announcement:

"Time to muck out the stalls and feed the horses."

Everyone stoops over to grab cow-

boy hats strewn across the pavement and clomps their way to the barn.

Journey to the Cross Rodeo Bible Camp in Garden City, Kansas, does just what the title suggests, mixing two traditions — church camp and rodeo — into one experience.

The camp began 12 years ago on Randy Fisher's ranch with 12 campers and a few volunteers from the Journey to the Cross cowboy church/Christian fellowship. Now it meets on Garden City's rodeo grounds and uses the local college's facilities. It averages 80 students from five states per year and nearly 40 counselors.

"Our goal in the beginning was just to show Jesus in us," Fisher says. "We had three passions: Christ, kids and cowboying. So we put them together in this camp."

Campers sign up for teams to learn a rodeo event like bull riding, barrel racing, horseless horseman, pole bending, goat tying or cutting.

### How to pray:

▶ Pray the campers participating in the Journey to the Cross Rodeo Bible Camp will come to know Jesus through the ministry.

▶ Pray this ministry will continue to grow and flourish and that more ministries like it will be created. (TAB)



Photos by Sue Sprenkle

Junior team ropers practice in the arena at the Journey to the Cross Rodeo Bible Camp in Garden City, Kansas. Campers focus on a rodeo event and participate in Bible studies, worship services and games.

Each event team includes counselors who have often competed either in college or the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association as well as a spiritual counselor to lead Bible studies and spiritual growth.

Lakin Getz, an eighth-grader from Quinter, Kansas, had no idea there was such a thing as "rodeo Bible camp" until this year.

### 'Love of Christ'

"It's great," he says. "We have fun with friends and practice our rodeo events. The best part is that we do it all with the love of Christ."

Getz signed up to learn chute dogging. This is similar to steer wres-

ting but cowboys start out in the chute with the steer.

When the gate opens Getz already has it by the horns as the steer tries to make an escape. A counselor holds the tail taut to keep the animal from getting too wild. Getz sets his feet wide and yanks back, bringing the steer down to the ground.

While pulling down the steer was a rush, Getz quickly points out that's not the best thing he's learned at camp.

"I've learned how to talk to God and get closer to Him," he says as other chute doggers nod their agreement. "We are learning to be cowboys who serve Christ." (BP)



The circle of prayer is a tradition at rodeos, with cowboys circling the arena and joining hands in prayer. The Journey to the Cross Bible Camp keeps this tradition alive with a daily circle of prayer where campers pray for each other.